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Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1700

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 040894-5665

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	Confirmation No.: 6103
Kenichi NISHIKAWA)	
)	Art Unit: 2879
Application No.: 09/867,758)	
)	Examiner: S. Leurig
Filed: May 31, 2001)	
)	
For: SPARK PLUG)	

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window, **Mail Stop AF**
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(d), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed after the events recited in § 1.97(c) but before the payment of the issue fee for the above-identified application. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d), a fee of \$180.00, as specified by § 1.17(p) is due for filing this IDS. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge this \$180.00 fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

The three references contained in this IDS were first cited in an International Search Report from the European Patent Office (copy enclosed) in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

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Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

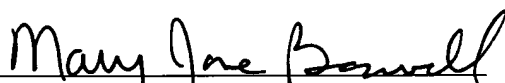
Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should any of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any additional fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: June 8, 2004

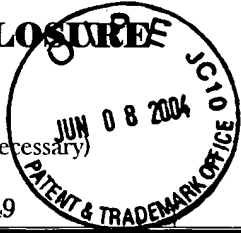
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
CITATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

PTO Form 1449



Attorney Docket No.

040894-5665

Application No.:

09/867,758

Applicant: Kenichi NISHIKAWA

Filing Date: May 31, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2879

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
	5,985,473	11/16/1999	Knapp			
	5,518,968	5/21/1996	Knapp			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	<u>Translation</u> YES NO	
EP 0 959 542	11/24/1999	Europe				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner	Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.